(b) if so, the status of the above said proposal;

(c) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to it; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to sanction it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched the "Rajiv Aarogyasri Community Health Insurance Scheme" to provide health coverage to the families living below porverty line, on a pilot basis in Anantapur, Mahboobnagar and Srikakulam districts on 01.04.2007.

The State Government has requested for a financial assistance of Rs. 46.20 crores under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), for the pilot project.

Proposal of the State Government has been considered and an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been agreed for the year 2007-08 to the State Government for implementation of the Scheme.

Specialization Course on Neuro Surgery in Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttack

†2055. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering the demand being raised against the discontinuation of super specialization course (M.C.H.) on neuro surgery from the Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, the first medical college located in the famous city of Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far by Government to fulfil the said demand; and

(c) whether any discussion has been held in this regard with the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Medical Council of India conducted the inspection of S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa in October, 2006 and did not recommend for recognition of M.Ch (Neuro surgery) qualification granted by Utkal University in view of certain deficiencies in terms of teaching faculty, OPD attendance and clinical material etc. Compliance on rectification of the above deficiencies pointed out in the inspection report was submitted by the Principal Secretary to Government of Orissa, Health and Family Welfare Department for which the inspector has been appointed by MCI for verification of the same. Further action can be taken as per proeedure stipulated in Indian Medical Council Act 1956 on receipt of MCI recommendations.

Setting up of national university

2056. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the proposal from the Chairperson of Khadi and Village Industries Commission to set up national university as a part of modernizing training programmes in khadi and rural industries sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that some good programmes have been sanctioned which may lead to employment opportunities of the rural people; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Central Government on (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rationale behind separation of Ministry of MSME

†2057. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose behind having a separate Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Ministry has failed in providing self employment to unemployed persons; and

(c) if not, the details of the different schemes introduced by his Ministry and the achievements made thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) To implement the new Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act that was enacted in 2006 to focus on the promotion and development of and for enhancing the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the erstwhile Ministry of Small Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries were amalgamated into the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Simultaneously, the Government amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 with regard to this Ministry.

(b) No, Sir. The employment generated by manufacturing MSMEs, including khadi and village industries and the coir sector was about 408 lakh persons by the end of Tenth Plan. As against a target of creation of 44 lakh employment opportunities by small-scale industries (now known as micro and small enterprises), approximately 60.23 lakh employment opportunities were created by the end of Tenth Plan.

(c) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing supportive measures to enhance competitiveness of MSMEs through technological upgradation, accessing markets, improved infrastructure, better availability of credit, facilities for training and capacity building of entrepreneurs. These schemes, *inter alia*, include Entrepreneurship and Management Development Programmes (EDPs & MDPs), Market Development.

Assistance Scheme for SSI exporters (SSI-MDA) to provide international exposure MSEs, etc., to enhance managerial capabilities of MSEs. With the view to further enhancing their competitive edge, the Government has also announced (i) the Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises, (ii) the implementation of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme which , *inter alia*, include operationalising the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, from 2nd October 2006. These initiatives including schemes like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Scheme of Fund

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.